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Legislature. I'm trying to tie this together so that if I had to attack this bill, then I would know exactly where to go to look All of the language in Section 8 is new. All of it is And it was felt that there was a necessity to underlined. precede the word "cause" with the word "proximate". And they did the right thing. But where you're talking about more serious offenses with more serious consequences, you need have proximate cause based on the way they've crafted the language. When courts are construing a criminal statute, that statute is going to be narrowly construed. The Nebraska Supreme Court starts its analysis by saying that a criminal statute in Nebraska is in derogation of the common law: that means it's cutting out a piece from the common law. And since it is departing from the common law, that statute is going to be strictly construed, meaning the narrowest of constructions will be applied, not only to protect the rights of the defendant so that he or she will know what must be defended against, but in order not to derogate from the common law any more than the statute, if constitutionally drafted, will do. And this might sound like lawyer talk for lawyers, and it is. I want to compile a record. Only by a statute can a crime exist in There are no common law crimes in Nebraska. conduct not made a crime by a specific statute that contains the elements, each of which must be proved beyond a reasonable doubt, if that is not present, no crime exists. If there is any ambiguity, any doubt, any vaqueness, it is resolved in behalf of the defendant. If there is such ambiguity or vagueness that an ordinary person who would be subject to the law does not know what conduct is prohibited and what conduct is allowed, that statute will be struck down as unconstitutionally vague or You are creating a brand new crime, well, a overly broad. series of crimes, with this proposed statute. It is not precise. It is vague. It is ambiguous. It is overbroad. realize I'm making assertions, but I want those assertions to be matter of record so it is clear what the Legislature had before it. I'd like to ask Senator Brashear a question.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator, would you respond?

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Yes...